

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

153rd Engineer Battalion hosts Warrior Challenge

By Staff Sgt. Christina Sihrer
HHC 153rd Engineer Battalion

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard's 153rd Engineer Battalion hosted The Warrior Challenge in Pierre, June 6.

The event, comprised of six different stations from units within the battalion, provided opportunities for future Soldiers to learn about the SDARNG and the 153rd by interacting with current Soldiers.

Some of the events included the 211th Engineer Company's rope climb and scaling an eight foot wall, the 200th Engineer Company's rubber raft race on the Missouri River and the 842nd Engineer Company's mud run/low crawl scavenger hunt.

"Participants worked thru six mentally and physically challenging events," said Lt. Col. David Dailey, 153rd Engineer Battalion commander. "The event that each unit selected are just a glimpse of some of the things their units are capable of doing. I think it's really great to see all these young adults out here interacting with Soldiers, also it gets us out into the community and interacting with people of our local communities. I feel that this event is really important because it showcases some of the best unit in the nation."

The Warrior Challenge started in 2011 as a way to show potential recruits some of the capabilities of the 153rd Engineer Battalion and to increase the recruiting efforts for the 16-21 year old range.

"It was very demanding day for these young adults," said Capt. Thomas Wilcox, administrative officer of 153rd Engineer Battalion. "The Warrior Challenge required teamwork and comradery. The Soldiers and young adults who participated are the ones who made this event such a great success."

The team put together by the 211th Engineer Company received the traveling trophy, awarded to the company with the highest overall score. Members of the team nicknamed "The Wolfpack" were Pfc. Skyelar Devaney, James Fuller, Jacob Hegdahl, Jeridan Jordahl, Braydon Gilbert and Tate McKnight.

"I had a really fun time at the Warrior Challenge," said Derek Thompson, from Chamberlain. "It was a fun competition with some challenging events. I loved it and I can't wait to join the South Dakota National Guard."

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The team representing the 842nd Engineer Company team also took home a trophy, awarded to the unit who had the highest team average. Members of that team were Sgt. Nicholas Herman, Jered Dosch, Brayden Eastman, Corey Hockenbary, Collin Hockenbary, Sarah Rohler, Hallie Schimdt, Johnathan Knocket and Joseph Hogan

“It definitely was a challenging day,” said Hallie Schmidt, of Spearfish. “It made you work as a team and make each other accountable for what everyone was doing on the team. It was just an all-around fun day and a great learning experience.”

The 153rd Engineer Battalion has approximately 838 Soldiers in seven units throughout 12 South Dakota communities. The units are comprised of combat arms which is primarily combat engineers and bridge crewmembers, combat support which is horizontal and vertical construction, and also support staff for administrative, and logistical requirements to maintain the unit’s readiness in support of their state and federal missions.

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High resolution photos are available at upon request.



150605-Z-ZZ999-104: The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 153rd Engineer Battalion hosted The Warrior Challenge in Pierre, June 6. The event, comprised of six different stations from units within the battalion, providing opportunities for future Soldiers to learn about the SDARNG and the 153rd by interacting with current Soldiers. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Alex Kalsbeck/Released)



150605-Z-ZZ999-101: The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 153rd Engineer Battalion hosted The Warrior Challenge in Pierre, June 6. The event, comprised of six different stations from units within the battalion, providing opportunities for future Soldiers to learn about the SDARNG and the 153rd by interacting with current Soldiers. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Alex Kalsbeck/Released)



150605-Z-ZZ999-102: The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 153rd Engineer Battalion hosted The Warrior Challenge in Pierre, June 6. The event, comprised of six different stations from units within the battalion, providing opportunities for future Soldiers to learn about the SDARNG and the 153rd by interacting with current Soldiers. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Alex Kalsbeck/Released)



150605-Z-ZZ999-107: The South Dakota Army National Guard’s 153rd Engineer Battalion hosted The Warrior Challenge in Pierre, June 6. The event, comprised of six different stations from units within the battalion, providing opportunities for future Soldiers to learn about the SDARNG and the 153rd by interacting with current Soldiers. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Alex Kalsbeck/Released)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil